

DIRECTED COST PROTOCOL

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 One embodiment disclosed relates to a method of cost determination for
paths between switches in a mesh. A set of paths between each pair of the
mesh switches is defined, and start-up costs for the paths are calculated. The
costs for the previously defined paths are subsequently recalculated using a
directed cost protocol. The directed cost protocol may include generating at a
10 first switch a cost packet with path information associated with a specific path,
and unicasting the cost packet via the specific path to a second switch.